



# Ancient Redding

IN

*Massachusetts Bay Colony*







## ANCIENT REDDING



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IN

*Massachusetts Bay Colony*

Its Planting  
As a Puritan Village

AND

*Sketches*  
Of Its Early Settlers

FROM

1639 to 1652

By

Loea Parker Howard

EDUCATION  
HISTORY  
QUALITY  
READING  
HOW

THOMAS TODD COMPANY  
PRINTERS BOSTON



## INTRODUCTION



THE following pages contain brief accounts of the Lynn inhabitants, many of whom lived in the precinct of Saugus, who planned and began the settlement of Lynn Village in 1638/9, and sketches of the inhabitants from neighboring towns who became settlers of Ancient Redding and are mentioned in the distribution of town lands in 1647 and 1652. There were eight inhabitants of Lynn who received allotments of land in Lynn Village in the Six Mile Grant of 1638 and who had, according to town and colonial records, a large share in its planting and subsequent history; there were twenty-eight inhabitants from other neighboring towns, who became early settlers of Redding, and shared in the divisions of town land in 1647 and 1652; these thirty-six planters and settlers were among the several thousand English subjects who fled to the Bay Colony from 1630 to 1645 to escape from the tyranny of church and state in England.

Most of the material here presented was gathered from records in the Registries of Essex and Middlesex Counties and the State Archives; from town records and histories; and from genealogies in the Library of the New England Historical Society.

Many of the lots and grants here mentioned were visited to obtain a definite idea of their location and extent.

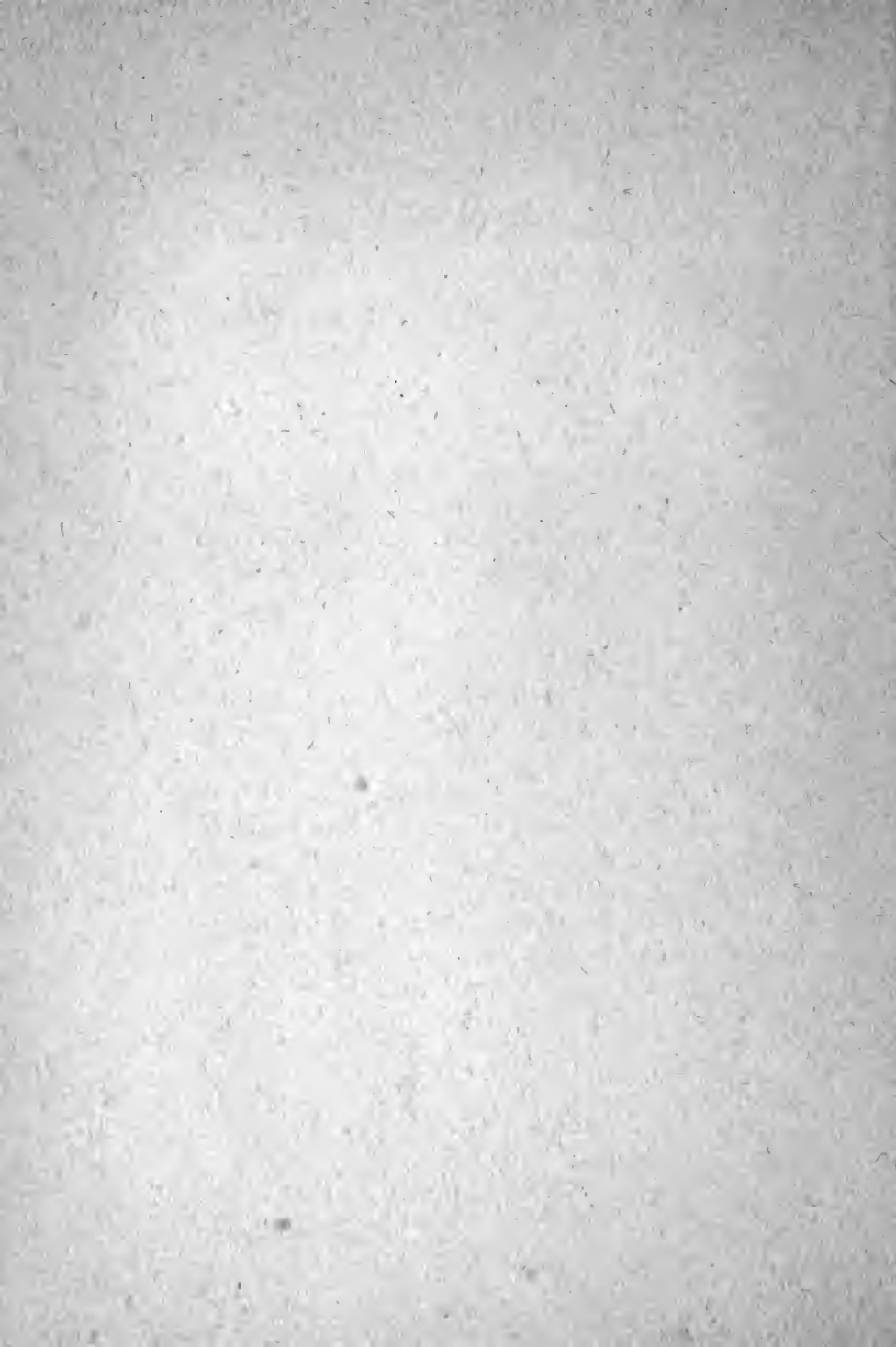
The ancient spelling of the name was *Redding* and is used throughout these pages to include the present towns of Wakefield, Reading and North Reading.

By the calendar in use when Redding was settled, the new year began during the latter part of March; this often made double dating necessary.

LOEA PARKER HOWARD

CONCORD, 1944

ANCIENT REDDING





## REDDING A PIONEER TOWN



**I**N 1639, nine years after the arrival of Gov. Winthrop with the charter of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, settlements were begun in Lynn Village near the shore of Lake Quannapowitt. At that time there were only seventeen towns in the Colony and they had only recently been given the right to elect officers, pass by-laws and give title to land within their borders. Counties were not established until 1643; Lynn Village was then placed in Middlesex and Lynn in Essex. By 1644 seven families were living in rude houses and they chose the name of Redding for the Town incorporated at that time.

Several early settlers of Redding came to Massachusetts at the time of Gov. Winthrop's arrival and a few were here years before; Richard Walker, Redding's first representative, was in Salem with Gov. Endicott in 1629; Peter Palfrey, whose homestead during his last years was near Crystal Lake, was with Roger Conant in Gloucester and Salem from 1624 to 1629; John Poole, the town-miller, was one of the eight men who with Lieut.-Gov. Dudley began the settlement of Cambridge in 1631. Redding, therefore, may justly claim to be one of the pioneer towns of the Commonwealth.

## GRANTS MADE BY THE GENERAL COURT IN 1638/9

The earliest public notice of plans for a plantation at the headwaters of the Saugus River was an order of the Court, March 16, 1638, granting to the inhabitants of Lynn a tract of land "whose bounds were Six miles from the meeting house and Mr. Hathorne of Salem and Lieut. Davenport of Lynn are to view and inform how the land beyond lyeth whether it may be fit for another plantation or no." Their report must have been favorable, for, on September 9, the Court passed a second order: "The petition of the inhabitants of Lynn for a place for an inland plantation at the head of their bounds is granted them, four miles square or so much thereof as the place will afford, upon condition that the petitioners shall within two years make some good proceeding in planting, so that it may be a village fit to contain a convenient number of inhabitants, which may in due time have a church there." On November 5, Mr. William Hathorne and Mr. Edward Tomlin were chosen "to measure the bounds of *Linn* according to the Court's order of Six Miles from the meeting house." They certified "that it extended from Charlestowne bounds (Stoneham) to the south end of the great Pond at Lynn village and from thence to the great swamp adjoining onto the great Pond and so to run from thence northward to the north River (Ipswich) and so to Salem bounds" (Peabody). On May 13, 1640, by the Court's order, "Such as go to Linn Village are for two years exempt from public rates which is to begin when seven

houses are built and seven families are settled there." On May 26, 1644, the Court ordered, "That Lin Village as the desire of the inhabitants thereof shall be called Redding." This constituted its incorporation.

The order of September 9, 1639, granting a place four miles square for a plantation, included land as far west as the bounds of Woburn and Stoneham and much of it became the Third Parish, now the Town of Reading.

#### A GRANT IN 1651

In 1651, the Court granted to the inhabitants of Redding, two square miles north of the Ipswich River; this and the upland south of the River as far as Bare Meadow, became the Second Parish, now the Town of North Reading. In 1658, the land north of the River was divided among the forty-five inhabitants of Redding, few of whom settled in the North Parish but sold their land to settlers who came from Salem and Danvers. The Town of Redding later gave one-half of Sadler's Neck, south of the River, to six proprietors of the Second Parish.

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## COLONIAL TOWNS WERE SMALL DEMOCRACIES

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OTHER towns besides Lynn were granted land for plantations with conditions similar to those applying to Lynn Village. Charlestown was granted "eight miles into the country from its meeting-house, provided they build within two years;" later it was given four miles square for Charlestown Village, now the towns of Winchester and Woburn. Cambridge was granted land, now a part of Newton, which was called Cambridge Village; later it was given land for Shawsheen Village, now the Town of Billerica, "provided they make it a village to have ten families within three years;" it was laid out in farms of 125 acres and village lots of 40 acres near the meeting-house; Waltham was the West Parish of Watertown, "with bounds that ran eight miles into the country from the meeting-house"; a part of Ipswich known as the "Village at New Medows" became *Toppesfield*; Bradford on the Merrimack was Rowley Village.

Each village had a meeting-house; a learned minister settled for life; a military company; a training-field or common; and, after 1647, a school. At first, houses were centrally located on village lots within half a mile of the meeting-house; large farms belonging to these homesteads were often miles distant. All inhabitants

were obliged to own *homestalls*. None could be freemen and take part in the government except members of the church. Local government was secured by freemen in town meetings. Each town became a small democracy. These conditions promoted safety and uniformity; they prevented the discord that had wrecked many earlier attempts to colonize New England. When a village was taking shape, its promoters held many meetings to make plans and to secure desirable inhabitants.

Land was held by fee-simple, not entailed nor leased from titled persons or religious societies as in England and Canada; all sons in a family shared the real estate.

Towns and villages planted under these conditions enabled Massachusetts Bay to become a Commonwealth, not merely a co-partnership engaged in fishing and trading. The men who had sacrificed their English estates to provide funds for the Company,—Winthrop, Johnson, Humfrey, Saltonstall, Endicott, Dudley, and others who came with the Charter, were not so much interested in profits as in laying a strong foundation for their great experiment in self-government. The institutions thus established have proved equal to the test of time, and are the chief sources of national strength.



## DISTRIBUTION *of the* SIX MILE GRANT



THE grant of March 16, 1638, with bounds Six Miles from the meeting-house was immediately distributed among the one hundred inhabitants of Lynn. According to the Reading Book of Lands and Ways, Nicholas Browne received his 200 and tenn acres east of the *Greate Pond*, only five days after the passage of the Court's order. The lots varied in size from 800 to 10 acres. The large lots enabled the Colony to fulfill pledges made to those who had invested large sums in the Company for ships and provisions. The contract was 200 acres for each £50 adventured. Persons who were not adventurers were given 50 acres for the *Master and his familie*. The total thus divided was 8640 acres or 13½ square miles. Its length from the Ipswich River to the Malden line was about five miles. The portion east of the Two Ponds for the distance of a mile became a part of Lynn Village; the part east of the Great Swamp to the Salem line was known as Lynn Fields, a precinct of Lynn; and the portion south of Lynn Fields, east of Lynn Village, was Saugus, also a precinct of Lynn. A copy of three pages from the missing Town Book of Lynn, giving the distribution of this grant, is preserved among the records of the Essex Quarterly Court, and a part is given on page 53.



## THE PLANTERS OF LYNN VILLAGE



THE planting of the Village was brought about chiefly through the labor and influence of the following inhabitants of Lynn: William Cowdrey, the first town-clerk of Redding, selectman and deacon for forty years, and representative for four terms; John Poole, the town-miller and its wealthiest citizen; Nicholas Browne, a selectman, representative and wealthy farmer; Thomas Parker, "won of ye foundation of ye church," selectman and justice; Zachary Fitch, a deacon and selectman; Richard Walker, the first representative, captain of the military company, selectman, a surveyor who laid out the lots for the Village, and became its most widely known and enterprising citizen; Thomas Marshall, a selectman. The last two had influential family and business connections; they were engaged in the purchase and sale of Redding land and probably brought new settlers to the Village.

Other Lynn inhabitants doubtless shared in this enterprise, but the records mention very little concerning them. Nearly all of the planters of Lynn Village here mentioned had lived in Saugus. Their homesteads are located on a map of Lynn, carefully drawn in 1829 by Alonzo Lewis who made a life study of the history of Lynn. This map shows the homestead of John Poole on the east side of the Lynnfield road, north of the present

schoolhouse in North Saugus. Near the pond, according to present-day residents, was his mill, and on the east side of the pond there is a hill called Poole's Mountain.

A half-mile south of the schoolhouse, and east of the intersection of Walnut Street and the Newburyport Turnpike, was the large grant made to Adam Hawks in 1635. South of Walnut Street on Saugus River were the ancient Iron Works. Nearby is the restored house of Thomas Dexter. West of the Soldiers' Monument in Saugus Center, on School Street, was Richard Walker's Plain. It was 200 acres given to him for laying out the lots of the Six Mile Grant. Near here lived Thomas Marshall. Here also was the homestead of Thomas Parker. East of the Saugus River, north of the Iron Works, was the watch-house, whose foundation stones and the spring can still be seen. Not far from the junction of Walnut, Chestnut and Pine Streets was the farm of Nicholas Browne. At the junction of Walnut and Holyoke Streets, at the base of a great cliff, was the house of Richard Sadler, the first Town Clerk of Lynn. This cliff and 200 acres of land, south of the Ipswich River in North Reading, known as Sadler's Neck, were granted to him in 1638/9. A tablet, by the roadside, commemorates Mr. Sadler. The home of Zachery Fitch was next to the meeting-house on Lynn Common.

### WILLIAM COWDREY

William Cowdrey was one of the inhabitants of Lynn mentioned in its Town Book as receiving in 1638/9, a grant of 60 acres and tenn.

It is described in the Book of Lands and Ways of Reading, as "Three score acres of upland that was given him by the Towne of Linn and lyeth in the bounds of Redding bounded south with the lande of Samuel Haugh and John Gould; on the west by lande of Thomas Taylor; on the north by lande of John Weyley; and on the east by lande of Samuel Haugh and Nathaniel Cowdrey." This was on the east slope of Cowdrey's Hill.

Also, "Given him by the Towne of Redding in 1642, three acres of Meddow lying in the Mill Meddow, bounded east with the meddow of William Eaton and Samuel Walker; on the south with meddow of Thomas Clark; on the west with land of Rev. Samuel Haugh and Samuel Dutton and on the north with the meddow of Thomas Parker."

Also, "Given by the Towne of Redding in 1647, a parsell of land by the Water Mill upon the hill on the south east of Samuel Dunton's house." He lived on the site of the late Quannapowitt House on the Common, and kept a tavern there.

He was born in Weymouth, England, in 1602; sailed for New England from Southampton, and arrived in Lynn about 1630. He was the first town-clerk of Redding, a deacon, chairman of the selectmen, and a commissioner to end small causes, from the organization of the church and town until his death in 1687, a period of forty-five years. When he had become too feeble to perform the duties of a town clerk, the Town did not elect a successor, but chose a clerk *pro tempore* for six

years. Ten years after Reading was incorporated, this worthy Town Father was empowered and ordered by the Court "to sell wine and strong liquors to Indians as to his judgment shall seem most meet and necessary for their relief in just and urgent occasions and not otherwise, provided he shall not sell more than one pint to one Indian at one time upon any pretence whatever." Redding selectmen, after their meetings, often presented bills to the Town for "Dinners at William Cowdrey's house."

William Cowdrey was one of the most active and influential members of the group who planned Lynn Village. In 1682, during a hearing in behalf of the Burcham heirs for land granted in 1638/9, William Cowdrey testified as follows: "Before settlements had begun in Lyn Village we held many meetings in Lyn and elsewhere to make plans and that he being one of the first to come up to Lyn Village which is one and forty years past, John Poole asked a grant of land for convenience and encouragement. When Capt. Richard Walker testified, William Cowdrey said that he was one of the first to come up to the Town and that he was better acquainted than any of us forasmuch as he was one of the 'lairs out' of the Linn lands, especially those lands that lie within our Town lines. Capt. Walker said that there was a lot south of the Newhall lots that was given to John Poole which was then and now is in the bounds of the Towne of Redding." (Vol. 39, p. 822 & Vol. 12, Mass. Archives.) Deacon Cowdrey died in 1687 at the age of eighty-five years. The village that

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he had helped to plant had become a prosperous town with one hundred proprietors. Registers of the two churches in Reading, England, contain records of the baptisms of numerous Cowdreys, but no record of a William Cowdrey.

## JOHN POOLE

John Poole was the wealthiest promoter of Lynn Village. In the year that it was incorporated, he was given an exclusive right to build and maintain a grist-mill for the use of the Town. It was to *sett* on the end of *Sargent* Marshall's *lott* by the Marsh *medow*. The present Rattan Works now occupy this site. His home-  
stead was nearby.

The grant to John Poole by the Town of Lynn in 1638 was 200 acres and he must have been an adventurer in the stock of the Massachusetts Bay Company. It was north of the Greate Pond, extending the entire length of the present Bay State Road. It included the farm of the late Dea. Caleb Wakefield, whose mother was a Poole, Camp Curtis Guild and the Cox farm.

The earliest book of Cambridge Records mentions John Poole as one of the eight first proprietors. Others were Lieut.-Gov. Thomas Dudley and Simon Bradstreet. They came to Boston in 1630 with Gov. Winthrop, and it is probable that John Poole came with them. Thomas Dudley had been the steward of the Earl of Lincoln and was succeeded by Simon Bradstreet. A genealogy of John Poole by Gilbert Brown, LL.D., states that he was a descendant of a brother of the Earl

of Lincoln, and gives an account of his very distinguished ancestors. In the Parish Register in Reading, England, is a record of the marriage of John Poole and Johanna—in 1637.

He was not a member of the Redding church, neither did he hold a public office, unless being the Town Miller is so considered. Many of his descendants have very honorable records in church, civil, and military life. His son, Capt. Jonathan Poole, inherited the homestead, the grist-mill, and part of the great farm at the north end of the Pond. He was a much valued captain at Hatfield and Hadley during Philip's Indian War, and president of a council of war there in the winter of 1675. He was a selectman and a representative. He died in 1678 at the age of 44. His daughter, Sarah Poole, became the wife of Dea. & Capt. Thomas Bancroft in 1673. They settled in the "Wood End," on land between West Street and Woburn bounds, given to them by their parents, and built the third house in the present Town of Reading. Their daughter, Sarah Bancroft, married Lieut. Abraham Briant, and in 1694 this couple built the Parker Tavern.

### NICHOLAS BROWNE

Nicholas Browne was a well-to-do farmer whose homestead was on Walnut Street in North Saugus. Next to John Poole, he had paid the largest tax in Lynn of any of the pioneers who went to Lynn Village. He was a son of Edward Browne of Inkburrow, Worcestershire, England. In 1660, he sent his son, Esq. John Browne,  
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to England to collect money due him on an inheritance of shops, houses and lands. The mission was not successful. He was a representative from Lynn to the General Court as early as 1631.

The first entry in the Book of Lands and Ways of Ancient Redding is the following: "The 18<sup>th</sup> of the 12<sup>th</sup> month (March) 1638. The Lands and Medows of Nicholas Browne as they *ware* given him by the town of *Linn* and as they *ware* given him by the town of *Redding* and as he hath purchased them of other men. Imprimis: The land given him as appears by the *Linn* Town Book in *ye* year 1638, Two hundred and tenn acres lying within the bounds of Redding and is Bounded on the east side of it with the great River (Saugus); on the south side with the land of Boniface Burton; on the west side of it with the Land of Lieut. Thomas Marshall and Jeremiah Swain; and on the north of it with the medow commonly called the Wigwams.

1642. Purchased of George Taylor of *Lin* 90 acres in the Town of Redding, bounded east & west by Capt. Richard Walker John Pool and Zachery Fitch; north by Hananiah Parker; south by John Bacheller. This is 30 acres of it. Another 30 acres is bounded on the north by Edward Taylor and John Bacheller; by the Greate Pond on the West; on the east by said 30 acres and Thomas Parker. The remaining 30 acres lying between Edward Taylor and Capt. Richard Walker on the south and east; on the west by the Greate Pond; and on the north by Nicholas Browne.

1647. Purchased of Hugh Burt of Linn 80 acres lying

in Redding, east by Thomas Marshall; north by John Pool; west by the Greate Pond; and south by Nicholas Browne

1647. Given by ye Towne of Redding, 30 acres of upland; north by John Persons; south by Capt. Richard Walker.

1647. Given 30 acres of meadow bounded north-west by meadow of Josiah Dustin & part of ye swamp on the south-east and all the corner of meadow from Josiah Duston in the end of meadow next to ——— Dosten's and Thomas Hutchinson that may be called Bear Medow." (The Reading Town Book was transcribed in 1681 and in describing boundaries, the names of owners at that date are often substituted for earlier ones. This accounts for the name of Hananiah Parker under date of 1642, when he was only four years of age!) In the divisions of Reading common lands, he was given many acres, so that in all he owned more than a square mile.

Nicholas Browne was a selectman for several years, and a commissioner with the venerable Peter Palfrey, "to end small causes." His death occurred in 1673.

Capt. John Browne, son of Nicholas Browne, was one of the most highly valued and respected citizens in the long history of Redding. He was for many years a selectman, representative, justice and captain. For a long period, his was the only name in Town Records, except that of the ministers, given the honorable title of "Mister." His wife, Elizabeth, was a granddaughter of Rev. Peter Bulkeley, the wise and benevolent founder of Concord. The Emersons of Redding and Concord are

descendants of Peter Bulkeley. John Browne died in 1717 at the age of 83 years. His gravestone in Wakefield bears the following tribute:

“Witty, yet wise, grave, good, among the best  
Was he,—the memory of the just is blest.”

### THOMAS PARKER

In 1638, Thomas Parker was granted 30 acres and *tenm.* Records in the Middlesex Registry prove that the location of this lot was on the knoll, north-east of the present Town Hall in Wakefield. To the west was the homestead of Rev. Samuel Haugh; on the south, the house and mill of John Poole; on the north, extending along the east side of the Common, the land of Thomas Weston; and on the east Timothy Willard, John Poole and 3 acres of meadow to the south of said Poole. (See Theodore Parker's Life of Capt. John Parker of Lexington.)

It is a family tradition that Thomas Parker first settled in Saugus, and Weiss, in his Life of Rev. Theodore Parker, locates his homestead near the west side of the Saugus River, eighty rods south of the old Iron Works. He embarked from London, March 11, 1635, in the *Susan and Ellen*, fitted out by Sir Richard Saltonstall. Fellow passengers were Richard Saltonstall jr. with wife and children. The families were related as is shown in Waters' "Genealogical Gleanings in England." Thomas Parker became a freeman May 17, 1637. He was about twenty-five years of age on his arrival in New England. Perhaps he had been married in England, for there is

no record of his wife Amy — here. They had eleven children. The church registers of Reading, England, contain the names of many Parkers, but none of a date that could apply to Deacon Thomas. Some reliable authors believe that he was the Thomas Parker baptized at Little Norton in 1609, as second son of John.

He was a deacon from the organization of the Redding Church until his death, a period of nearly forty years. He was a selectman for several terms and a Commissioner with Deacons Cowdrey and Kendall to end small causes.

He died in August, 1683, and his wife Amy died in January, 1690. The oldest gravestone in the cemetery in Wakefield has this inscription:

Memento Mori Fugit Hora

Here lyeth within this Arched place ye body  
of Deacon Thomas Parker who was won of ye  
Foundation of ye Church who dyed ye  
12 August 1683. Aged about 74 years.

Lieut. Hananiah Parker, his son and executor, inherited the homestead and bequeathed it to his son John, who moved to Lexington in 1712 and sold it to his neighbor, Jonathan Poole, a grandson of John Poole, miller.

Deacon Parker gave a farm to each of his sons. As they had large families, his descendants are very numerous. Two whose names will long be highly honored were Capt. John Parker, who led the Minute Men on Lexington Common, April 19, 1775; and Rev. Theodore  
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Parker, a fearless opponent of slavery during the years when wealthy merchants, public officials, and many clergymen of Boston favored it. He was indicted for resisting the Fugitive Slave Law.

Three of Deacon Parker's sons were in Philip's Indian War in 1676,—one died of wounds. Dr. Moses Parker of Lowell gathered the records of twenty-seven descendants of Thomas Parker who served in the Colonial Wars, and thirty-five who were soldiers in the Revolutionary War.

### ZACHARY FITCH

The grant to Zachary Fitch in 1638 was 30 acres and tenn. His homestead was on Fitch's Lane, the present Salem Street in Wakefield. Like other Pond-Side lots, its eastern boundary was the "Lott End Road," now Vernon Street. His name with that of Cowdrey, Poole and Browne, is mentioned in a petition to the Court in 1645, as having moved from Lynn, where he had been a large taxpayer. He was one of the first selectmen of Redding and a deacon from the organization of the Church until his death in 1662. His son Benjamin was a deacon and his grandson Joseph was captain of the Reading Company. Zachary Fitch was born in St. Allens, England, was a freeman in Salem and moved to Lynn in 1638. Deposed in 1661 that his age was about 70. He was nearly 50 when he came to Lynn Village, and so was much older than the other planters.

### JOHN SMITH

John Smith had a grant of 60 acres in 1638/9.

In 1653, the committee that settled the boundary between Lynn and Lynn Village mentioned John Smith's land and east end of John Hawkes' farm which John Smith then owned, as the bound between the two towns.

This John Smith was a freeman of Lynn in 1633 and not the Lieut. John Smith, son of Francis, who came to Redding from Chelsea after his father's death in 1650.

He settled first in Maine and, alarmed by Indian raids, came by night to Danvers, then to Lynn, and later to Lynnfield. His son, Amos Smith, married Abigail Hart and they kept a tavern on the old road from Redding to Haverhill. In 1895, a Henry Smith lived on the farm cleared by his great-grandfather Amos. Near the house, built on the site of the old one, was a spring giving forth sixty gallons per minute. This farm and house are now used by the Sagamore Golf Club. The land was part of the 500 acres granted in 1638 to Mr. Thomas Willis, the wealthy English schoolmaster whose heirs sold it to Isaac Hart.

### THOMAS MARSHALL

Thomas Marshall was granted 30 acres and tenn by the Town of Lynn in 1638. His Redding homestead was on the knoll north-east of the Wakefield Town Hall. In 1655, when he borrowed £282 of Robert Bridges of Saugus, he pledged " 16 acres at or neere the dwelling of said Thomas Marshall, having the land of Thomas Parker on the north side, land of John Poole on the east side and the common highway on the south and west sides. Also 5 acres of medow below the corn-

mill, bounded north and east by John Pool and south and west by John Smith. Also any houses, barns, orchards and gardens."

Thomas Marshall sailed from London in 1635 in the *James*, and settled west of the Saugus River in the neighborhood of Thomas Parker and Richard Walker. He and his wife were early members of the Redding Church; he was a selectman from 1647 to 1652. He shared in divisions of Redding land in those years, but not thereafter, as he went to England and became a captain in the Army of the Commonwealth. On his return to New England, he was a representative from Lynn during 1659, '60, '63, '64 and '68. He was elected lieutenant of the Lynn Company in 1657. He bought the famous Anchor Tavern of Joseph Armitage, a cousin of John Pool and was its landlord for many years. He entertained many notable persons on their journeys between Boston and Salem, and was noted for relating in great detail his important connection with Cromwell's Army. John Humfrey, Edward Tomlins, Richard Walker, Robert Bridges, and Thomas Marshall, all of Lynn, were members of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company. The death of Thomas Marshall was in 1689.

## RICHARD WALKER

In the Church Registers of Reading, England, there are many records of persons bearing the name of Walker. There is a Richard Walker, born in 1690, who may have been the father of Richard of Reading, Massachusetts.

In 1631-32, the death of Marjorie Walker, wife of Richard, is recorded; and in 1643 there is the marriage of Richard Walker and Sara Hemstead. Now our Richard Walker was in Lynn during 1630 and went back to England soon after, for his name and year of birth appear in the London Shipping Office in 1634, when he came a second time to New England. His wife's name was Sarah. In 1642 he was given a "homestall" in Lynn Village, and may have brought his bride there from Redding, England.

He was the most enterprising and the most widely known of the promoters and early settlers of Ancient Redding. His long life was full of adventure and of service for the Colony and the towns in which he lived. Yet, only a few indefinite statements about him are found in the histories of Lynn and Reading. This is due to a curious error as to the year of his birth, which led to the belief that there were two persons,—a father and a son,— bearing this name, and also to confusion arising from his having moved from Lynn to Reading, then to Boston, and afterwards to Lynn, a second time.

According to several depositions, he was born in 1612. Gov. Winthrop speaks of his being in Salem in 1629. In the suit of Lynn *vs.* Dexter (Essex Court), Richard Walker testified that the Governor gave him and others leave to go where they would and that he was one of the first to go to Lynn.

He was ensign of the Lynn Company in 1631 when the Taratine Indians made a night attack on the Town.

Capt. Edward Johnson of Woburn described it as follows:

“Near *Sawgus* in the dead of Night being on their Watch because of the Report of the Indians approach, Lieut. Walker a man indued with Faith and a courageous Spirit, coming to relieve the *Centinel*, they of a sudden hear the Sticks break near them and withal He felt something brush hard on his Shoulder which was an Indian Arrow shot through his Coat and the wing of his buff Jacket. Upon this he discharges his Culliver toward the Place where they heard the Noise which being deeply laden breaks in Pieces. They then return to the Court of Guard. Coming to the Light they perceive He has another Arrow shot *thru* his Coat between his Legs. They stand on their Guard till morning expecting the Indians to come upon them every Moment. When Daylight appears they send Word to other Parts whence divers come together and to quit themselves of these Indians discharge their great Guns. The redoubling of *Ecchos* rattling in the Rocks causes the Indians to betake themselves to Flight.”

According to early Massachusetts Bay historians, one hundred of these Eastern Indians in thirty canoes attacked Ipswich, slaying seven men and wounding the Sagamores John and James Quannapowitt.

Richard Walker served with other Lynn men in the Pequot War. He became a skilled surveyor and in 1638/9 by order of the Town, he and Daniel Howe laid out the lots in Lynn Village and the farms in Lynn Fields.

A record in the Reading Book of Lands and Ways is as follows: "Given at a General Town Meeting in 1642 to Richard Walker, 27 acres on the Plain at the west side of the Greate Pond; bounded north-west by Matthew Edwards, south by the highway, and east by the Greate Pond."

"Also, in 1642, 10 acres being a neck of upland bounded west by Mr. Samuel Haugh and north by a little river that runs between beech neck and this land."

This land between Elm Street and the Greate Pond was his *homestall*. The great width of Elm Street indicates that it was used as a training field for the company of which he was the first captain.

He was a selectman of Redding from 1647 to 1650 and in '53, and its first representative to the General Court.

In 1653, Richard Walker and Thomas Marshall were appointed by the Court to settle the boundary between the towns of Redding and Lynn. They also laid out the County Road from Andover to Redding.

In 1645, the Court sent Capt. Bridges, Lieut. Walker and Sergt. Marshall to Acadia, to negotiate the conflicting claims between La Tour and D'Aulney. For their "good services in this embassy," Capt. Bridges was given £10, Lieut. Walker £4 and Sergt. Marshall 40s!

Richard Walker was employed for many years in the interest of Sir Thomas Temple, who was engaged in trade on the coast of Maine and Nova Scotia. They owned several vessels used in their fur trade with the Indians. Sir Thomas was appointed Governor of Acadia

by Cromwell and Richard Walker became the Deputy Governor from 1662 until 1670. On the restoration of Charles II, Sir Thomas, a nephew of the Earl of Lincoln, was deprived of his rights and ordered to return Acadia to the French King. A tablet at Castine bears the following inscription:

“Here landed, Aug. 5, 1670, Chevalier de Grand Fontaine Governor of Acadia accompanied by Captain de Chambly Baron of St. Castine his other officers soldiers and savages. Here on that date he received the surrender of Fort Pentagoet from Captain Richard Walker deputy for Sir Thomas Temple Governor and people.” This surrender included the forts at Castine, St. John, Port Royal and Cape Sable.

In 1666, Richard Walker moved to the North End in Boston. He and Hon. Hezekiah Usher, Chairman of the Boston Selectmen, were trustees of the Old North Church to secure and hold a house for the Rev. Increase Mather. This burned during the Great Fire of 1676; and the house that replaced it became the home of Paul Revere and has been restored.

His son, Obadiah Walker, bought 1000 acres at Woolwich along the Kennebec River, that included the site of the present City of Bath. He married Sarah Haugh, the minister's daughter; her mother was sister of Hezekiah Usher, the rich and benevolent publisher.

In 1677, Richard Walker sold his Boston property to his son's widow and returned to Lynn where his two married daughters were living. He was then sixty-five

years of age. He was elected a representative for two terms and was lieutenant of the military company.

He showed his abhorrence of the intolerant spirit of the authorities in religious matters, when he with only four other members of the Court voted against the execution of Mary Dyer, a Quaker, hung on Boston Common in 1660.\* He also opposed the Court's order for the burning of Gov. Pyncheon's books. Sir Richard Saltonstall wrote from England a manly letter of remonstrance against bigotry to the ministers of Boston First Church.

He died in 1687 at the age of seventy-five years. Judge Sewall wrote in his diary: "Monday, May 16, I go and visit Rev. Mr. Brock in Redding and to Salem. Capt. Richard Walker a very aged planter is buried at Lin; a very good man."

\* Her son, William Dyer, was Mayor of the City of New York and Collector of Customs for America. In his will, 1690, he gave 20 acres of land in Redding, Mass., to his wife, Mary (Walker) Dyer. Her descendants claim that she was a daughter of Capt. Richard Walker.

See *New England Historical Register*, January, 1944.



## REASONS *for the* NAME OF REDDING



**T**wo things may have led to the choice of Redding as a name for Lynn Village. The Parish Registers of St. Mary and St. Elizabeth in Reading, England, have records of many Cowdrys, Pooles, Brownes, Parkers, Marshalls and Walkers, but, with the exception of John Poole and Richard Walker, there are no records of persons with Christian names at a date that could refer to inhabitants of Redding, Massachusetts. While it is probable that Reading, England, was the home of some of our Redding ancestors, we have no family records that confirm this belief.

A second reason for the name may have been the deep interest taken by Lynn inhabitants in the great struggle then being waged by Parliament against the tyranny of King Charles and Archbishop Laud. Life and property had not been safe for years, and thousands of the best English citizens had fled to New England. Reading, England, had taken a bold stand for its rights. It was an inland town and had refused to pay ship-money, a tax laid to provide the King with money that Parliament had refused to give him. In 1644, the year that the inhabitants of Lynn Village chose Redding as the name of their Town, the Royal Army was defeated in a fierce battle at Reading, England.

Lieut.-Gov. John Humfrey of Lynn was one of the six men who secured the Charter of Massachusetts Bay

Colony; his wife, Lady Susan, was a daughter of the Earl of Lincoln whose house was the social center of the Puritan party. John Humfrey lived in Swampscott; in 1635 the Court granted him a square mile of land surrounding Humfrey's Pond (Suntaug Lake) in Lynnfield; John Poole came to Massachusetts with Lieut.-Gov. Dudley, who had been the steward of the Earl's estate; the largest grant of Lynn land made in 1638 was the 800 acres south of the Ipswich River and east of the present Haverhill Street in North Reading given to Lord Brooks. He was a leader in the Parliamentary Army who lost his life in the Siege of St. Chad in 1643, before he could carry out plans to seek a refuge in New England; Thomas Marshall returned to England and fought under Cromwell; Mr. Richard Sadler, the first Town Clerk of Lynn who was granted 200 acres south of the Ipswich River in 1638, returned to England, preached at Ludlow until he was silenced at the time of the Restoration; Rev. Samuel Whiting, the beloved minister in Lynn for forty-three years, was banished from England and came to Lynn in 1636. His father had been Lord Mayor of London; Elizabeth Metcalf, wife of Thomas Bancroft the emigrant of Lynnfield, was a daughter of Michael of Dedham, who fled from England with his family because his life was threatened by Bishop Wren.

The pioneers of Lynn Village had sufficient reason for their great interest in the Civil War and may have chosen Redding as a name for their town as a means of showing their sympathy and appreciation of the great struggle for human rights that was being waged in the Redding of their ancestors.



## EARLY SETTLERS FROM NEIGHBORING TOWNS MENTIONED IN THE MEADOW GRANT OF 1647



THIS grant comprised meadow lots from five to thirty acres, highly prized before settlers had cleared their uplands. The division was as follows: "For every person two acres and for every beast one acre." Town Records contain a list of the twenty-nine inhabitants who were granted land at this time and among them were twenty new settlers from neighboring towns. They became sterling citizens and many of their descendants have served the Town faithfully in responsible positions during the three centuries of its history.

### REV. HENRY GREEN

The minister was given 17 acres. He was born in Great Bromley, Essex County, England, in 1618-19, and was admitted to Emmanuel College, Cambridge, in 1634. He entered Harvard College and is listed by Samuel Eliot Morison among its early graduates. He was a freeman of Watertown in May, 1640, and was granted a lot of 72 acres in 1642. When Thomas Mayhew and other Watertown men bought Martha's Vineyard, they hoped to secure young Henry Green for their minister, "but he went not."

According to Bond's Watertown, he was ordained as the minister in Redding, Nov. 5, 1645, and died there on Oct. 11, 1648. His wife was Frances Stone, daughter of Dea. Simon Stone of Watertown. She came from Ipswich, England, in 1635 at the age of 16 years with her father aged 50 years.

Gov. Winthrop spoke of Henry Green as "a scholar," and Edward Johnson of Woburn, the early historian of New England churches, said: "He was a man of toil, faithful and devoted to his work and early fell."

### FRANCIS SMITH

Francis Smith was given 30 acres in 1647. His name in the handwriting of the second minister, Rev. Samuel Haugh, stands first in the list of early church members. He was a proprietor of Watertown in 1632 and 131 acres of land were granted to him. He was admitted as a free-man in 1631, and probably came to New England as a member of Gov. Winthrop's company. His name is not found in the Watertown records after 1642. He and his son, Lieut. John Smith, went to Chelsea where they leased the Ferry Farm. The Mass. Colonial Records, Vol. 2, states that "Good man Smith of Winnissimmet hath liberty to sell wine and keep a house of common intertan'mt." It was customary for magistrates and others to stop at the Ferry Farm on their journeys from Salem to Boston.

He came to Redding in 1646 and bought the great farm given to Mr. Edward Howell by the Town of Lynn in 1638. Mr. Howell was a leader of a group of

Lynn inhabitants who settled Southampton, Long Island. In Essex Records, Vol. 7, p. 83, the grantors, Richard Walker and Thomas Marshall, declared "That the 500 acres sold to Francis Smith are free of all manner of former bargains, gifts, grants and sales, from the beginning of the world to the day of the date thereof." It is described as "bounded south by the common land of the town of Maulden; south-east by the common lands of the town of Boston; east by the land of Richard Roolton of Linn; north by a little river and the land of Thomas Clark and Lt. Thomas Marshall." It was east of Smith's Pond (Crystal Lake) and extended through the rocky hills to the Saugus bounds. The Boston land mentioned was a panhandle that ran north to the Three County Bounds south of Castle Hill.

Francis Smith was a member of Redding's first Board of Selectmen in 1647, '49. His death occurred in 1651.

Rev. Samuel Francis Smith, the author of our national hymn, America, was a descendant of Francis Smith. The mother of the poet was Sarah Bryant, a daughter of Amos of Redding. (*Boston Transcript*, Mar. 9, 1940.)

### LIEUT. JOHN SMITH

Lieut. John Smith remained in charge of the Ferry and its Farm after his father's death. He inherited the Redding farm and was a selectman during most of the time from 1650 to '64. He had six sons and three daughters. The sons married and settled on the great Smith farm. Francis, a son of Lieut. John Smith, inherited the Redding homestead near Crystal Lake. He

was a deacon, town clerk and selectman for many years. He married Ruth Maverick of Chelsea, a daughter of Elias and Ann. The mother died in Redding and was buried in the old graveyard there.

Elias Maverick of Chelsea and Samuel, his brother, of East Boston, were members of Robert Gorges company that sailed from Plymouth, England, in August, 1623. The Mavericks carried on a trading-post near their dwelling, and the Island, now East Boston, was granted to them by the General Court in 1633. Other members of Gorges company were Rev. William Blackstone who built his lonely habitation on the western slope of the Shawmut Peninsula, and Thomas Walford, the blacksmith, at Mishauwum (Charlestown). These early settlers belonged to the Church of England. They were wealthy and educated. They welcomed the great company of nonconformist Puritans who came with Gov. Winthrop, and showed them every kindness during the hardships of their first winter in Charlestown and Boston. After a short time, their kindness was forgotten; they could not become freemen and take part in the local government unless they joined the Puritan Church of Boston; they were made to feel that they were not desirable neighbors and they moved to more hospitable places.

### PETER PALFREY

Although not an inhabitant of Redding until after the Meadow Grant, mention will be made here of Peter Palfrey, because of his connection with the Smith fam-  
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ily and because he was one of the "old planters" who settled on the shore of Massachusetts Bay years before the arrival of Gov. Winthrop. He came from Salem and was a selectman in Redding during 1652, '53 and '57. In 1658 he was given a large tract of land north of the Ipswich River, and a lot of upland in the Wood-End between Woburn bounds and the present West Street, south of the twenty acres that Ens. Bancroft of Lynnfield gave to his son Thomas and Sarah Poole in 1675 at the time of their marriage.

In 1658 the General Court appointed Peter Palfrey, William Cowdrey and Nicholas Browne, commissioners to end small cases. One record speaks of his being "much betruſted," and he was deſcribed as being "venerable."

His daughter, Jehoidan, married Benjamin Smith, a ſon of Francis. Another daughter, Hannah, married Matthew Johnson, ſon of Capt. Edward of Woburn, the ancient hitorian of Maſſachuſetts Bay ſettlements.

The Probate Records of Middleſex contain the following quaint agreement: "Oct. 1, 1664. Edward Johnson aged about 65 and Susan his wife aged about 66, teſtifie that Peter Palfray of Redding comeing to our houſe to mak up the match between our ſonne Mathew Johnson and his eldeſt daughter Hannah Palfray, £50 was accepted from Mr. Palfrey to be paid out of his eſtate. Signed, Edward Johnson." This couple are anceſtors of Preſident Franklin D. Rooſevelt.

Peter Palfrey died in 1663, "well ſtricken in years." He came to Cape Ann in 1624 in the company of four-

teen men fitted out by Rev. John White of Dorchester, England, for the purpose of providing a depot of supplies for the fishermen on the coast. They landed at Gloucester and built a stage for drying fish. "The ill choice of the place for fishing, the ill carriage of the men, and the ill sales of the fish led to failure, and the company with the exception of Peter Palfrey and three other honest and prudent men returned to England." Conant, Palfrey, Balch and Woodbury removed to Naumkeag (Salem). Here they settled in 1626. Gov. Endicott joined them with a small company two years later, and Gov. Winthrop with a thousand persons and twelve vessels arrived in June, 1630.

### THOMAS KENDALL

Thomas Kendall had 14 acres of the Meadow Grant of 1647. He and his brother, Francis, were in Charlestown before 1640. Francis went to Woburn by 1642, and was a deacon of the church there. Thomas went to Lynn, and came to Redding at about the time of its incorporation. In the list of early members, after Francis Smith are the names of Deacons Cowdrey, Kendall, Parker and Pearson. He was a selectman for many years, and a very influential citizen.

The homestead of Thomas Kendall and his wife Rebecca — was near Church and Cedar Streets, Wakefield. This couple had no sons, but *eight* daughters who married, settled in Redding, and have many descendants. The names of their husbands and the location of their homesteads are as follows:

Sergt. John Parker and Hannah, south-west slope of Cowdrey's Hill, on Prospect St., ancestors of the Parker families of Hill-End and Franklin St.;

Sergt. Abraham Briant and Mary, north slope of Cowdrey's Hill, on Elm St.; they gave 30 acres to Abraham jr. and Sarah Bancroft when they built Parker Tavern, 1694;

Sergt. James Boutwell and Rebecca, on Elm St.; their son Dea. Thomas inherited his Grandfather Kendall's homestead; the Boutwells later moved to the Dana Parker farm adjoining Memorial Park, Reading;

John Nichols and Abigail, Elm near Winn St., on a farm that was Capt. Richard Walker's; this family moved to Reading, near the intersection of North Main and Pearl Sts.; Ens. Nathaniel Goodwin and Susanna, Elm and Prospect Sts.; he was a representative, selectman, and town clerk for many years;

John Eaton and Elizabeth inherited the William Eaton farm east of the Pond;

John Pearson jr. and Tabitha; his father came from Lynn and was one of the first seven church members in Redding; they moved to Lynnfield;

Sam'l Dunton jr. and Sarah, Water St., near the grist-mill.

Dea. Francis Kendall of Woburn in his will gave a gold ring to each of his eight nieces. A daughter of Dea. Francis was the wife of Joshua Eaton of Reading. Dea. Thomas Kendall died in 1681 and Rebecca his wife, who survived him until 1703, died at the age of 85 years. Her gravestone bore the following inscription:

“Here lyeth the mother of ten who had 175 grand and great-grandchildren.”

### JONAS EATON

The Meadow Grant of Jonas Eaton was 11 acres. He and his brother William embarked from Sandwich in 1635, and settled in Watertown. Jonas came to Reading before 1647, but William remained in Watertown for several years. The homestead of Jonas was on the northwest slope of Cowdrey's Hill where he made use of Bare Hill Brook, for he was a successful tanner. His estate in 1673, with hundreds of acres of land and many cattle, was valued at £960. His widow, Grace, was provided with a house and an annuity; his son Jonas inherited the homestead; to John he gave, “My house and land at the Pine Playne with medow adjoining at the west end of the Playne, one half of all kinds of my cattle and 100 Apple trees which he shall chuse out of my orchard;” to Joseph, Jonathan and Joshua, minors, he left gifts of money.

The Pine Playne was the large tract of land in the present Town of Reading through which Lowell Street extends from Grove Street to the railroad bridge; the “Slab City Mill,” built by Joseph, between 1708 and '20, was near the southern limit of the Pine Playne; the brook from Birch Meadow, flowing north into the Ipswich River and furnishing power for the mill, was called the Reava River in numerous deeds as early as 1659; the owner of the Playne is often designated in Town Records as “John Eaton of the Playne.”

Jonas Eaton and Grace, his wife, were early church members. He was a selectman in 1650, '62, '70 and '73. The Eatons for several generations were successful tanners and large owners of land. His son Joshua owned many acres of land on both sides of Summer Avenue in Reading, and in 1698 bought a house, barn, orchard and meadow called Lobs Pound with swamp and water privilege. Joshua's son Thomas and his grandson Capt. Thomas succeeded to the homestead later known as the Prescott farm.

Eight descendants of Jonas Eaton were in early Colonial Wars. Others gave to the Town many years of honorable service. To the Hon. Lilley Eaton, a descendant of Jonas, we are indebted for the History of Reading.

## THOMAS HARTSHORN

Thomas Hartshorn, the emigrant, received only 5 acres in 1647. The Hartshorne homestead for more than a century was on the west side of Elm Street opposite Winn Street. After 1800, Col. James purchased the ancient house on Church Street, now owned by the Wakefield Historical Society. Thomas Hartshorn was a freeman in 1648 and a selectman in 1661 and '67. A son and a grandson were in the early wars, — Joseph, in Capt. Jonathan Poole's company at Hadley, in Philip's Indian War, and Jonathan, a lieutenant in the 8th company under Col. Ebenezer Nichols, at the taking of Louisburg, Cape Breton Island, in 1745.

Timothy Hartshorn, born in 1737, married Abigail

Nichols and purchased an Eaton farm on Haverhill Street in the Third Parish.

Thomas Hartshorn, the emigrant, was born about 1620, died in Reading, Mass., in 1683. Parish Registers of Reading, England, do not contain the name of Hartshorn.

### WILLIAM HOOPER

In 1635, William Hooper, at the age of eighteen years, came from England in the *James*, with Lieut. Thomas Marshall. He became an early inhabitant of Redding and in 1647 was granted 9 acres. He probably built the Hartshorn House on Church Street, Wakefield, and sold it with 4 acres of land in 1664 to the wife of Thomas Hodgman. After that, his homestead was on Prospect Street, near Bare Hill Brook Road. He died in 1673. His son William was a selectman of Redding and contributed for the purchase of the Indian Deed and for the erection of the second Meeting-House.

### ISAAC HART

The Meadow Grant to Isaac Hart was 15 acres. He came from England in 1637 as a servant of Richard Carver, lived first in Watertown where he owned two homestalls; he was in Lynn by 1640, and came to Redding before 1647. He lived west of the Wakefield Common and in 1688 sold to the Town the land upon which the second Meeting-House was built.

Isaac Hart purchased two large grants of Lynnfield land. One was 500 acres south of Ipswich River, given

in 1638 to Mr. Thomas Willis by the Town of Lynn, on part of which the Sagamore Golf Course is now located. The other was 200 acres, south of the Willis grant, given to Edward Tomlins who had returned to London. Capt. Tomlins was a brother of Mrs. Willis and Mrs. Hart. (Waters' "Gleanings in England.")

Isaac Hart moved to Lynnfield and his name is in the list of persons living there who subscribed to the cost of the second Meeting-House in Redding.

### JOHN PERSON

John Person (Pearson) was granted 15 acres in 1647. He was an inhabitant of Lynn in 1635. He and his wife, Maudlin, were among the seven earliest members of the church in Redding. He was a deacon from 1645 until his death in 1679. In the records of the Essex Court, there is an inventory of his estate that mentions 30 acres of upland called the Newell Lott, 40 acres by John Hawkes, 2 acres in the wigwams, and 80 acres beyond the Ipswich River.

His name is not among the owners of Redding houses in 1667, as the family had moved to Lynnfield. Ebenezer and Jonathan Pearson fought the Indians in 1725 at Dunstable.

### JEREMIAH SWAYNE

Jeremiah Swayne received 12 acres of the Meadow Grant. He was in Charlestown in 1638 and in '42 was given 2 acres on Mystic Side, Malden, on condition that he remain there. He came to Redding, however, very early and settled on the old road to Salem, in the eastern

part of the Town. He died in 1658. His son Jeremiah and several other descendants were physicians.

Major Jeremiah Swayne jr., born 1643; married in 1664, Mary Smith, a daughter of Francis. He became a selectman, representative, an assistant to the Governor and an early captain of the Reading company.

In the Great Swamp Fight with Philip's Indians in 1675, he was a lieutenant in the 1st Middlesex Company under Major Appleton. These men commanded the Massachusetts soldiers. "At daybreak on Dec. 19, the troops began their long march of sixteen miles through intense cold and a heavy snow-storm. They reached the Indian fort at two o'clock in the afternoon. The first company to cross the swamp and enter the fort met with a terrible fire. Others coming on, though suffering severe losses, drove the Indians from their fort to the swamp and woods beyond and set fire to the fort. Then through a bitter, winter night, these men, who had marched from dawn till high noon, had engaged in a desperate life and death struggle from noon till sunset, now carrying more than two hundred dead and wounded, plodded in the deepening snow and unbroken roads for sixteen miles to their quarters of the day before." A score of the wounded died during that terrible night march. Seven captains leading their men were killed and four other officers were wounded; among the latter was Lieut. Swayne.

In 1677, Capt. Swayne led a company of fifty men and ten Indians from Richmond Island on the Kennebec, to Saco for the relief of the settlers from Dover and  
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Wells. In 1689, he was given command of seven Massachusetts companies and others from Plymouth, in an expedition to clear the border towns of enemies as far as Portland.

He died in 1710. He bequeathed to his son Benjamin, a physician, selectman and lieutenant, his homestead, a farm of 170 acres beyond the Ipswich River, and the farm that Benjamin was living upon.

To his son, Jeremiah, he gave a homestead on the west side of the present High Street, Reading, with the house, barn and land adjoining, containing about 60 acres of upland, meadow and swamp. It was bounded on the south by John Boutwell and Richard Temple; west by the highway and Temple's Swamp; east by Jonathan Parker's land; north by Samuel Lillie and the highway. This place on High Street was the homestead of Benjamin M. Hartshorn, a lawyer of much promise, who died in 1867 at the age of twenty-eight years.

### HENRY FELCH

Henry Felch sr. was given 9 acres of the Meadow Grant. He was a proprietor in Gloucester, sold his land there in 1639, settled in Watertown in 1642, and came to Redding in 1647 where he was a selectman in 1647, '48 and '51. In 1648 he mortgaged his lot in Redding for £30 to John Batchelder of Dedham. In 1653 it was discharged and John Batchelder was then described as of Redding. Henry Felch died in 1699 and his widow Hannah in 1717, at the age of nearly 100 years. His sons, John, Joseph, and Daniel, a "Practitioner," owned

land in the "Wood End," south of the present Prescott Street. In 1710, John Felch sold to Thomas Eaton sr., for £372, a "Messuage" with a house, barn, orchard, a second house, and 30 acres of land; the deed also mentions a cider-mill. North of this messuage was the homestead of Jonathan Parker "the widower," whose land included the present Appleton homestead on Woburn Street; south was the land of Dr. Daniel Felch; east and west was the highway.

Several Redding proprietors who shared the Meadow Grant in 1647 moved to other plantations:

William Martin received 14 acres. He came from Lynn and was one of the first selectmen and a freeman in 1653. His name is perpetuated by Martin's Pond and Brook in North Reading. He was one of ten men who petitioned the Court in 1655 for a plantation on the Nashua River, called Groton. In 1676, when the Town was destroyed by the Indians, they fled to Chelmsford on the Merrimack River.

Samuel Walker was given 14 acres of the Meadow Grant. He came to Boston in 1634 at the age of 24 years with his brother Capt. Richard who was coming to Lynn from England the second time. He and his wife were dismissed from the church in Boston to that in Redding a short time before the ordination of Rev. Samuel Haugh in 1650. He moved to Woburn after 1652, and was a deacon of the church there.

Thomas Marshall, the carpenter, was given 9 acres in 1647. He is thus designated in the list of church members during the ministry of Rev. Samuel Haugh

and in the land grant of 1652. His name does not appear in Town Records after that time.

Edward Taylor's share in the Meadow Grant was 11 acres. He was an early inhabitant of Lynn. He and his brother George owned a large tract of land east of the Great Pond; forty acres of this was a grant to George from the Town of Lynn in 1638. In 1675 Edward Taylor sold 200 acres of upland and swamp on the border of Redding and Lynnfield to Lieut. Hananiah Parker and John Townsend. He had no children and it is said that in 1690 he made a gift of his house and land to John Pratt jr. of Medfield. John Pratt 3<sup>rd</sup> moved to Redding in 1692 and was the first of that family to live here. Edward Taylor died in 1694. This farm was later the homestead of John White sr. and Lucius Beebe, Esq.

Josiah Dustin had 15 acres in 1647. He was in Lynn before 1644 and his name is the seventh in the list of church members of Lynn Village. He died in 1671.

George Davis was given 11 acres in 1647. He was a proprietor in Lynn and a cousin of the worthy Mr. Edward Holyoke of Lynn and Lynnfield. He was a selectman of Redding in 1655-56 and '58-'60, and Clerk of the Market in 1671. A son, Benjamin Davis, was in Capt. Poole's company during King Philip's War.

Thomas Clark was in Lynn in 1640 and a selectman of Redding in 1659. His Meadow Grant was 6 acres. His homestead was on Prospect Street, not far from Bare Hill Brook Road. Ten acres of his land was sold to Sergt. John Parker, opposite the latter's house, and

in 1664, he sold his large dividend of 277 acres north of the Ipswich River to John Upton.

Bad conditions connected with the sale of intoxicating liquors existed even as early as 1671, for "Thomas Clark, Keeper of the Ordinary, on his own confession was fined 15<sup>s</sup> 5<sup>d</sup> for suffering disorderly persons in his house at an unreasonable time of night, and eight persons for their uncivill carriages in an unseasonable time of night, were admonished and fined costs."

Robert and Samuel Dunton were given 7 acres and 9 acres of the Meadow Grant. They came to Redding from Lynn in 1644. Robert was a selectman in 1647 and '49. He shared in the general division of Town lands in 1658, but after that his name is not found in Redding records. The eight Lynn men who had planned and commenced the settlement of Lynn Village had the largest grants in 1647 and 1652 with the exception of Francis Smith and the minister. They prospered and continued for many years to be leading men in the community.



## NEW SETTLERS WHO SHARED THE PLAYNE GRANT OF 1652



**O**F the thirty-four Redding proprietors who received lots in 1652, only eight were new settlers. The great emigration, following the arrival of Gov. Winthrop, had ceased. Conditions in England grew better as the Parliamentary Party under Hampden and Cromwell gained control. New England inhabitants during the next two hundred years were descendants of the first proprietors. This accounts for the remarkable uniformity in customs, habits, and manners throughout New England until the second great Atlantic emigration that began a century ago. Redding's early settlers had been yeomen in Old England, owning and cultivating small farms. Not one bore the high title of *Mister*, except the Rev. Mr. Green and Mr. Haugh. The land grants to John Poole, Nicholas Browne and Robert Burnap indicate that they had *adventured* quite large sums in the Massachusetts Company, and some of their wealthy family connections may have been *Esquires*. Lord Robert Brooks was killed in battle in 1643, and never saw his grant of 800 acres south of the Ipswich River in Redding.

In 1652, the Town ordered "That the lottes that was to be laid out on the Woburn line, is to be laid out on the Playne and are to begin at the end next to the

Burcham Playne and if the Playne will not be enough for all, the rest to be laid out in the Pine Playne at Dirty Breech meadow and to begin at the hither end next to the Town." These lots amounted to three-fourths of a square mile. The land records of Middlesex County show that they comprised a considerable part of the land near West Street in Reading and the Pine Plain which was west of the old saw-mill at "Slab City." In 1664, Henry Merrow built the earliest Reading house on one of the lots near the Woburn line. In 1673, Jonas Eaton bequeathed to "John of the Playne" a house, barn and orchard, at the Pine Playne. This was on the high land west of the Old Mill. The third homestead in Reading appears to have been that of Capt. Thomas Bancroft and Sarah Poole on West Street, in 1675.

### WILLIAM EATON

William Eaton with his wife, three children and brother Jonas, came from Staples, England, in 1635 and settled in Watertown where he was a proprietor in 1642. He moved to Redding about 1652, became a freeman and joined the church there. In 1653 he bought 100 acres south of the Wigwam meadow of Robert Bur-nap sr. for £30. His homestead was east of the Great Pond. His descendants became influential citizens in each of the Redding parishes.

### JOHN WILEY

Sergt. John Wiley was an early settler on land in the Woodville district of Wakefield. The men of this  
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family took a deep interest in military affairs and were officers in all of the early companies. His descendants settled in Stoneham and Lynnfield, also.

## JOHN DAMON

John Damon was the son of Widow Damant, wife of John Eaton of Watertown. They were received into the church at Dedham in 1642, but continued to live in Watertown. In 1658 John Eaton bequeathed £5 "to John Damant of Redding." He became a member of the Redding church before 1669, a selectman in 1672-75-'81-'86, and a deacon in 1690. His first homestead was on the west slope of Cowdrey's Hill at the lower end of Bare Hill Brook Road. The family early moved to land on John Street, near the center of the present Town of Reading. Numerous descendants have served as deacons, selectmen, and members of school committees. "In 1681, John Damon jr. made application to have liberty to come and dwell in Dedham to practise his trade as a tanner and a committee was appointed to inquire concerning the young man." (Dedham Record.) Another son, Sergt. Samuel, was one of Redding's ten men in Capt. Davenport's company that led the charge on King Philip's stronghold in the terrible Swamp Fight in Dec. 1675. The Town gave six acres of land to each of these men and they received a share of the land granted to soldiers of this war by the General Court in Westminster, Templeton and Amherst, N. H. Four men from the Damon families were in early colonial wars.

## THOMAS TAYLOR

Thomas Taylor was a proprietor in Watertown in 1642. He sold a house and six acres of land in 1649, moved to Lynn and then to Redding. His homestead was on Prospect Street, Wakefield, not far from Bare Hill Brook Road. His son, Seabred Taylor, volunteered in Philip's war and was rewarded with land by the Town and Colony.

## ROBERT BURNAP

Robert Burnap was born in England about 1595, came to New England in 1638 and was a proprietor in Roxbury in 1640. He moved to Redding about the year 1650, and his homestead was in the east part of the Town. He was a surveyor, and after 1654 was a selectman for fourteen years.

According to Waters' "Gleanings in England," John Burnap of Ashton, England, father of Robert and Thomas of Redding, in New England, bequeathed £250 to them. Shortly afterward, Robert bought 100 acres of meadow in the Wigwams, and in 1654 he bought the Lord Brooks grant of 800 acres south of the Ipswich River and east of Haverhill Street, given to His Lordship by the Town of Lynn in 1638/9. Robert Burnap sold this in 1662 to Capt. Curwin of Salem. In 1667, his son Isaac died, and left one-half of a farm in Salem to his Redding relatives. Robert sr. died in 1689, left his homestead of 80 acres to his son Thomas. To Robert jr. he bequeathed the land and meadow "in the town that his house is now in, and a 10 acre lot near [ 46 ]

Ensign Nathaniel Parker's." Robert jr. was a surveyor and a selectman for nineteen years. He and his son Joseph lived on the Ash Street farm, where the Reading Municipal Light Plant is now located. His son, John, was one of the men in Capt. Jonathan Poole's company in the Great Swamp Fight. Capt. Joseph Burnap, son of Robert jr., born 1663, succeeded to the homestead and married Tabitha Eaton. He was a cooper and the town surveyor. He died in 1744 and bequeathed £20 to be expended for a communion service. A part of this gift is the beautiful silver cup, now in the collection of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. A grandson, the Rev. Dr. Jacob Burnap, born 1748, was a graduate of Harvard University, and for fifty years the minister of the old church that long stood near the banks of the Souhegan River in Merrimack, N. H. He died in 1821 aet. 73. His first wife was Ruth Hopkins, and his second was Elizabeth Brooks, by whom he had 13 children. She was a sister of Dr. Brooks who led the Reading minute men in Concord, on April 19, 1775, who later became a Governor of Massachusetts. Joseph Burnet (Burnap), the founder of St. Mark's School in Southboro, was a descendant of Robert of Redding.

### REV. SAMUEL HAUGH

Rev. Samuel Haugh, the second minister of the Redding Church, was ordained in March, 1650. He came to Boston in 1633, at the age of twelve years, with his father, Atherton Haugh, and the Rev. John Cotton. The father had been a mayor of Boston, England, and

a parishioner of Mr. Cotton who became the minister of the church in Boston, Mass. Both men had been persecuted by Archbishop Laud. Atherton Haugh was highly respected and was one of the Governor's Assistants. His Boston house was on the southerly corner of School and Washington Streets. Samuel, an only son, attended Harvard College, but did not graduate. He married Sarah, daughter of Rev. Mr. Symmes of Charlestown. He died in 1662 at the house of his brother-in-law, Hezekiah Usher, on State Street, opposite the Old State House. Mr. Usher was a wealthy publisher who assisted Rev. John Eliot in the publication of the Indian Bible.

The estate of Rev. Samuel Haugh was valued at about £2,000. In Redding, he owned his residence with considerable land that included the site of the present Wakefield Town Hall; 30 acres in Berchen Plain; 399 acres north of the Ipswich River; and a farm with water rights at Lobs Pound in North Reading. In Cambridge, he owned a farm with many cattle. In Concord, the Court gave him, in 1650, 400 acres that had been granted to his father. In Boston, he owned the family homestead on the south corner of School and Washington Streets. In Braintree, "Hough's Neck," opposite the present Fore River Ship-Yards, was a portion of his real estate.

## JOHN WESTON

"About the year 1644, being thirteen years of age, John Weston came from Buckinghamshire in the west  
[ 48 ]

of England, to Salem. His mother was then a widow. His desire to come over was such that he concealed himself in a ship bound for America until she sailed. He was a member of the first church in Salem in 1648. He removed to that part of Reading, now Wakefield, about the year 1652. His land adjoined Meeting-House Square and extended southerly from the south-east part of the Pond." (Manuscript of John Weston jr.) South of it was the homestead of Dea. Thomas Parker.

In 1653, he married Sarah, a daughter of Dea. Fitch. They had eight children, and their descendants have been very numerous in the "Hill-End" and "West Side" of Reading. He died in 1723, aged over 90 years. In a Troop of Horse from Reading in the expedition against the French and Indians, in 1757, there were three members of this Weston family; five served the Town efficiently as selectmen; and one was its postmaster for thirty-five years.

### JOHN BATCHELDER

Sergt. John Batchelder, the emigrant, was a proprietor and a selectman of Watertown in 1635, a freeman in 1640, and sold 36 acres there in 1642. He joined the Dedham church with John Eaton and his wife, Abigail Damant. His sons, John and David, were baptized in Dedham in 1643. The family came to Redding about 1648. The Batchelder homestead was on the east side of the Pond, near the present Cordis Street. In 1654, he bought 40 acres of upland south of John Poole's farm of Lieut. Thomas Marshall for £30. In 1661 he and

his son David leased 200 acres of Isaac Hart, which had been granted to Mr. Edward Tomlins of Lynn in 1638/9. It was south of the present Sagamore Golf Course in Lynnfield. Sergt. John Batchelder also bought of Lieut. Marshall one-half of the Collins Meadow of 80 acres in Lynnfield. Both of his sons served in King Philip's War of 1675,—John in Capt. Davenport's company that led the charge into the stronghold of the Chief, and David in the company of Lieut. Hasey of Redding.

John Batchelder was a selectman; Nathaniel, a grandson, born 1674, married Hannah Ellsley, moved to the West Parish, and built the earliest Batchelder homestead on Pearl Street and south side of Franklin Street. It is said that much of the land belonging to this farm was purchased of the Indians.

The Batchelders have been an influential family in the present Town of Reading; nine served the Town as selectmen for forty-four years; four were representatives; Esq. John, born 1791, a Harvard graduate, was a member of the school committee for thirty years; his brother, George, was a captain of the military company.



## THE ANCIENT RECORDS OF LYNN AND REDDING



**D**URING the past three centuries, many things have happened to the old records of Lynn and Redding. At the outset, when there were very few proprietors, town meetings were very informal and records of proceedings were probably kept on loose leaves of paper, that were soon misplaced and torn. In 1715, the inhabitants of Lynn voted "that the records were much shattered and that the oldest book may be kept fare to reed severell years and the second book transcribed." A few pages were thus copied and the books afterward lost or destroyed. The early records of Redding also became "shattered," and at a town meeting in 1681 it was voted, "that the Old Town Book be transcribed that is in all material things." It is in two parts, one containing records of town meetings from 1644, and the other the Book of Lands and Ways, beginning in 1638/9. There are also a few mutilated pieces of the original records. Many grants mentioned in the old Lynn records in the distribution of the Six Mile Grant in 1638 were in the township of Redding, and are fully described in its Book of Lands and Ways. It has the following title: "A Trew Record of the lands and medows within the Bounds of the towne of Redding as they were given by the Towne of Linn or as they were

given by the Towne of Redding or as they have been purchased of others. The 18<sup>th</sup> of the 12 mo. 1638."

The copy of 1681 was again transcribed by William Wightman, the Town Clerk of Reading, from 1862 to 1874. The ancient letter forms were difficult to decipher, making his task long and perplexing, but his copy was beautifully done and is remarkably accurate. Before 1700, the title of "Mister" was reserved for ministers, magistrates and other learned men. The old abbreviation for "Mister" so closely resembled that of "Major," that it is not strange that Mr. Wightman sometimes gave to ministers the rank of major!

Although the old Town Book of Lynn was lost or destroyed two centuries ago, a copy of three pages, giving the distribution of the Six Mile Grant of 1638 to its one hundred inhabitants, is carefully preserved in the records of the Essex Quarterly Court. The occasion that led to the making of this copy was a suit brought against the Town of Lynn by William Longley, "for withholding and not laying out forty acres of land which were his due and equal proportion as an inhabitant according to a distribution made in 1638." He won the suit and forty acres were laid out to him west of the Humfrey farm in Lynnfield. In 1678 this lot was sold to Ens. Thomas Bancroft of Lynnfield. The following items are copied from this Court record:

These lands following were given to the inhabitants of the Town of Lynn Ano Domni 1638



R	To ye Right Hon. ye Lord Brook 800 acres as it is estimated	L	To Mr. Edwad Hollioke 500 acres upland & meadow
L	To Mr. Tho Willis upland and meadow 500 acres as it is estimated	RP	Widdow Bancroft 100 acres Zachary Fitch 30 acres & tenn
L	Tho Talmage 200 acres & tenn	R	George Taylor 30 acres & tenn
RP	Nicholas Browne 200 acres & tenn	RP	Tho Parker 30 acres & tenn
RP	William Cowdrye 60 acres & tenn	R	Robert Parson 30 acres & tenn
RP	John Poole 200 acres	R	Edward Burcham 30 acres & tenn
L	Edward Tomlins 200 acres & twenty	RP	Tho. Marshall 30 acres & tenn
R	Boniface Burton 60 acres	R	Anthony & Tho Newill 30 acres each
R	Mr. Edward Howell 500 acres	R	Abraham Belknap 40 acres
RP	John Smith 60 acres	R	Hugh Burt 60 acres
R	Mr. Sadler 200 acres & the rock by his house	L	Richard Langlye 40 acres
R	Joseph Armitage 60 acres	R	Adam Hawks upland 100 acres
R	Godfrey Armitage 60 acres	S	Mr. Samuel Whiting the Pastor 200 acres
S	Thomas Dexter 350 acres	S	Mr. Thomas Cobit the Teacher 200 acres
SRP	Richard Walker upland & meadow 200 acres		

These three pages were taken out of the Towne Book of the Records of Lynn the 10<sup>th</sup>  $\frac{1}{mo}$  Ano Domni  $\frac{59}{60}$  By me

ANDREW MANSFIELD


Town Recorder

NOTE: The letters R P L and S, inserted by the author, indicate the following: RP, Land in Redding given to those who became its planters. R, Land in Redding given to those who did not settle there. L, Land in Lynnfield. S, Land in Saugus.



GOD SIFTED A WHOLE NATION  
THAT HE MIGHT SEND CHOICE GRAIN  
OVER INTO THIS WILDERNESS

GOVERNOR STOUGHTON, 1669



This beautiful tribute to the founders of Massachusetts Bay Colony is equally true of the planters and early settlers of Redding mentioned in the preceding pages. They fled from England during the years of which Charles Dickens said, "That terrible as were the horrors of the French Revolution, there was nothing worse done by the maddened people of France in that awful time than was done a century earlier in England with the express approval of the King."

The inhabitants of the Bay Colony escaped from the tyranny of the King and his Archbishop, but for many years the authorities in Massachusetts persecuted believers of other faiths. The Colony was in danger of becoming a theocracy, dominated by the ministers of Boston and Salem. But ancient records show that Redding settlers and their ministers, in common with those of other country towns, supported the tolerant and democratic spirit of the Ipswich and Lynn Plantations.

Captain Richard Walker stood almost alone in the Court, to protest against the execution of Mary Dyer, and against the burning of Gov. Pyncheon's books. The Dyer family owned land in Redding; members of a family of Quakers banished from Salem and two grandsons of Rebecca Towne, executed during the witchcraft delusion, married in Redding and bought homesteads there.

Early Redding settlers showed their interest in education when twenty years after the incorporation of the Town, thirty-nine proprietors paid a tax equal to 360 days' wages toward rebuilding the College in Cambridge.

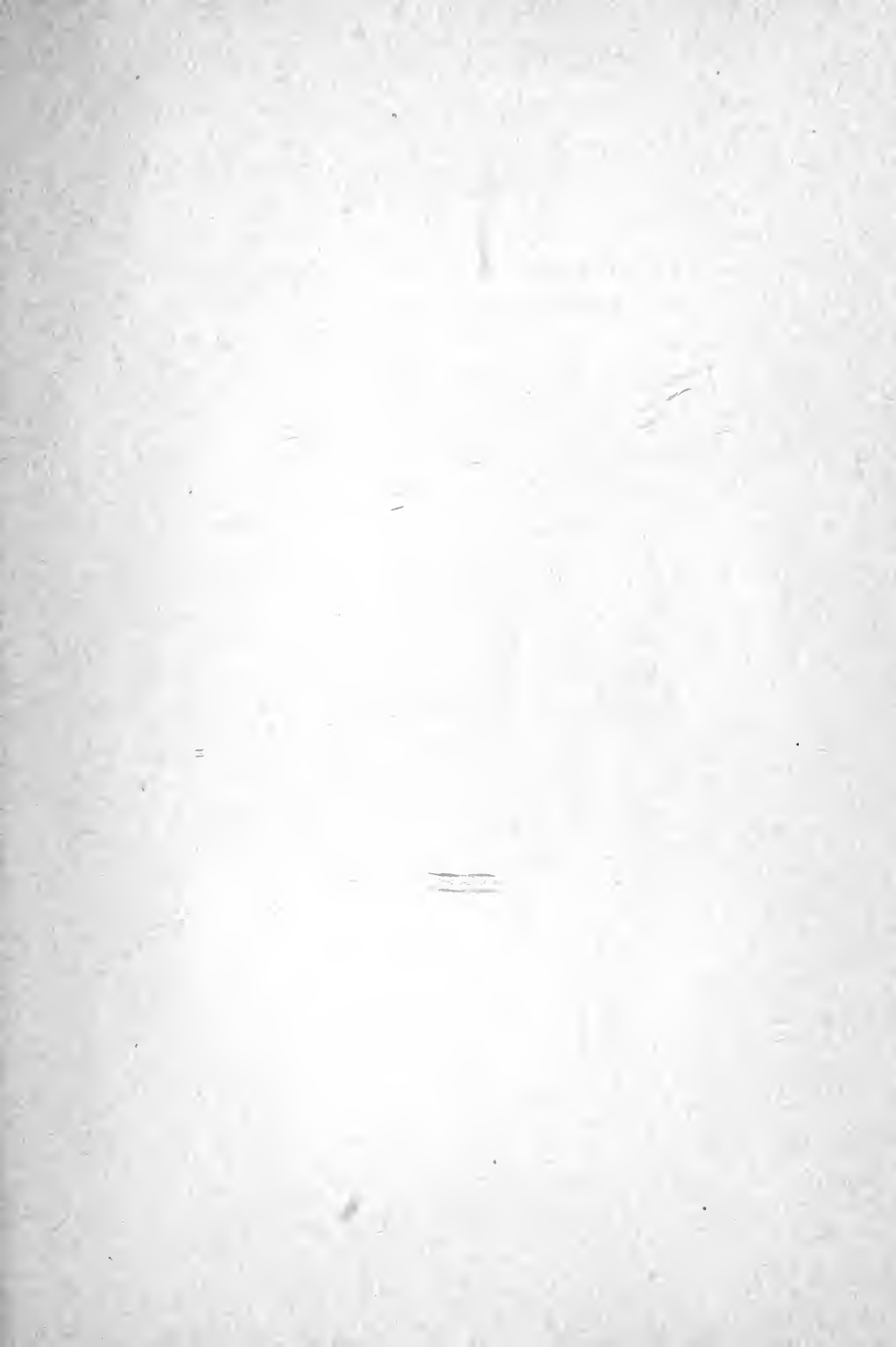
When King Philip's War threatened the destruction of the Colony, the sons of early Redding settlers filled its quota and were in the company that led the attack in the terrible Swamp Fight. To raise money for men and materials, their fathers levied five single rates in 1675 and six in 1677. These taxes in some cases amounted to more than the valuation of the property.

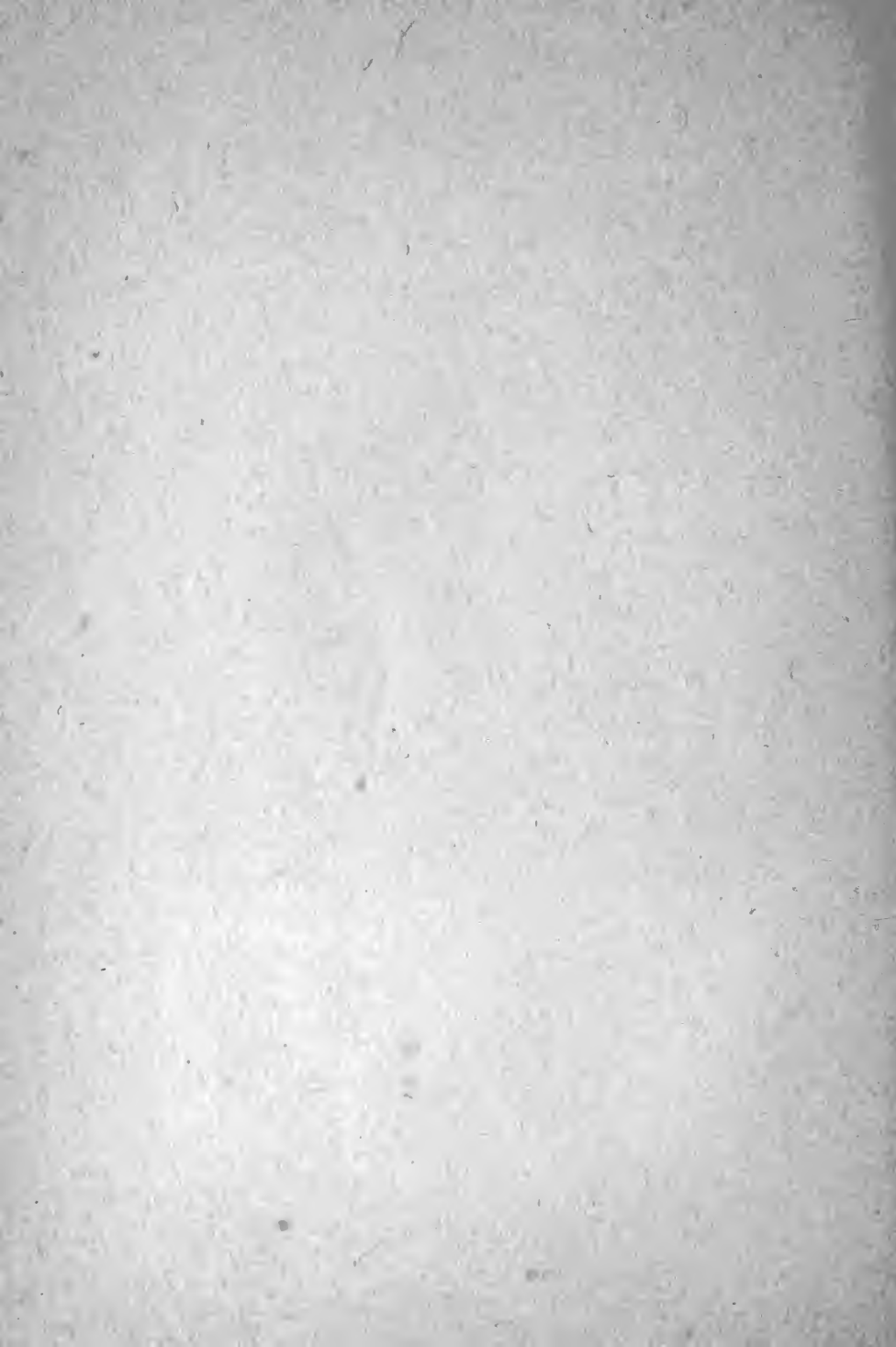
In each of the three centuries of its history, Redding, in common with the other towns of the Commonwealth, has taken an active part in fierce struggles that have endangered the liberty of free men. In this Tercentenary Year of Ancient Redding, amid the terrible sacrifices of a World War, we can utter no better prayer than that borne on the seal of the City of Boston:

"As with the fathers, so may God be with us."

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